

Fort Sheridan Lieutenants' Quarters
(Building No. 92)
3711 Leonard Wood Avenue
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-29

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/29-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IL-1113-29

FORT SHERIDAN, LIEUTENANTS' QUARTERS
(Building No. 92)

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

HABS

ILL,

49-FTSH

1/29-

Location: 3711 Leonard Wood Avenue.
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 16. 433280. 4674530.

Present Owner
and Occupant: United States Army.

Present Use: Officers' Quarters.

Significance: An example of officer housing of the early twentieth century constructed from standardized plans issued by the Office of the Quartermaster General of the United States Army. One of four similar buildings at Fort Sheridan, it was first used as Lieutenants' Quarters. Half of the two family house was the home of General George Patton, Jr., and his wife when Patton was a young lieutenant just out of West Point.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1905.
2. Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Not known.
5. Original plan and construction: The two-family, cream brick house with two-and-one half stories has a central projecting pavilion and two rear wings. The ridge of the gable roof on the main block runs north-south and the ridges on the central pavilion and rear wings run east-west. A one-story porch, originally of wood, covers the entire facade. The building faces west with entrances off the porch.
6. Alterations and additions: The original slate roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles. The wooden front porch has been removed and a concrete one constructed. Two single-one story, clapboarded additions have been added to the rear. The additions rest

on brick foundations and have flat copper roofs. The entrances into the addition are through porches on the north and south sides.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

General George Patton, Jr., lived in the house for two years when he was a young lieutenant. His residency is commemorated by a plaque on the facade near the door on the north which reads: "2nd Lt. George Patton, Jr., 15th U.S. Cavalry Occupied This Set of Quarters 1909-1911. In Memory."

C. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Office of the Quartermaster General, Plan No. 120-D, Description of Special and Regular Drawings 1893-1915; Quartermaster Standard Construction Drawings, 1890-1918; and Plans for Standard Army Post Buildings, 1903-10. Record Group 77, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

2. Bibliography:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915 and Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, Record Group 92. National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Constructed from standardized plans issued by the Office of the Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army, this design lacks the distinctiveness of the Holabird and

Roche designs for officer housing constructed over a decade earlier. A modified Palladian motif in the gable of the central pavilion on the facade suggests the Georgian Revival style which was becoming popular at the time the house was constructed.

2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is two-and-one-half stories high with a full basement. The main block measures 36' by 60'.
2. Foundations: Rockfaced limestone, random ashlar with a concrete water table.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Cream brick laid in common bond with five rows of stretchers to one of headers.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall.
5. Porches: A U-shaped porch covers the facade surrounding the central pavilion. The sides, floor and supporting columns of the porch are concrete. A cast iron railing with plain rectangular balusters runs along the front and sides of the porch and the concrete stairs. The section of the porch in front of the central pavilion is screened. The corners of the porch are open and contain the two front entrances. The porch roof is hipped and covered with seamed copper.

Porches resting on brick piers cover the rear wings on the north and south sides. Wood stairs with wood handrails lead up to the porches. The areas between the wood columns are screened and the shed roofs are covered with seamed metal. The porches connect to the single-story, clapboarded additions at the rear of the wings.

6. Chimneys: One large, interior, cream brick chimney on the ridge of the roof of the central pavilion. Two interior end, cream brick chimneys on the ridges of the roofs of the rear wings. The upper sections of the chimneys have been repaired with a reddish brick.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The doors are topped by flat, gauged brick arches. The doors on the two front entrances are wood with three panels and one light. Side doors which open onto interior landings on the rear stairways between the basement and first floor

have four wood panels and sixteen lights. Rear doors which open off the porches into the kitchens have three wood panels and twenty lights. The doors are painted black.

- b. Windows: The windows are topped by flat, gauged brick arches. A grouping of windows in the gable of the central pavilion forms a modified Palladian motif. Two rectangular windows flank a central blind window with a blind lunette above it. A gauged brick arch with an extrados archivolt formed by a single projecting rowlock bands the entire composition together.

Two windows on the basement level, one on the north and one on the south are casement windows with three lights. The other windows are double hung sash with lights varying from two-over-one, to two-over-two and one-over-one.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof of the main block is gable with the ridge running north-south. A central pavilion on the facade and two rear projecting wings have gable roofs with ridges running east-west. The entire roof is covered with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Plain box cornices with returns on the gable ends.
- c. Dormers: A central gabled dormer on the rear of the main roof between the two projecting wings has been modified. There are no longer windows in the dormer, and the gable has been infilled with shingles.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. The floor plans for each of the two sections of the house are identical except that they are reversed.
- b. The first floor has a side hall plan with the living room and dining room opening off the hall toward the inside of the building. An entrance foyer contains the front stairway. Behind the foyer a hallway leads into the pantry and kitchen. The rear exit is off the kitchen. Behind the kitchen, in the one-story addition, is a maid's room and bath.

The second floor has two bedrooms on the inside of the house and one at the rear. Two stairways, a bath and storage areas are on the outside.

The attic is one open space.

2. Stairways: The front stairway runs from the first to the second floor. It is open string with ornamental brackets and has an open well with three flights. The balusters are turned, and the newel posts have molded wooden caps which are flat on top. A newel drop projects from the second floor into the stairwell. The balusters are painted an off white.

The rear stairway goes from the basement to the attic. It is enclosed and has two flights between each floor. An outside door opens off the landing between the first floor and the basement. The balusters and handrail are painted an off white. The risers and treads are painted gray.

3. Flooring: The floor in the basement is concrete. The floors on the first and second stories are hardwood with boards measuring 2-1/4" across. There are molded baseboards. The kitchen floors are covered with linoleum. In the attic the floor boards measure 5-1/8" across and are painted.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls in the basement are stone and brick. On the first and second floors the walls are plaster painted an off white. In the attic the walls are brick. The ceiling in the basement is composition board. Those on the first and second floor are painted plaster. The attic ceiling is unfinished.
5. Openings: The doorways on the first and second floors have molded architrave trim. The paneled doors are painted an off white.
6. Decorative features and trim: A fireplace in the living room has a plain wood molding and a separate mantelshelf. The rectangular opening is covered by a metal fireplace cover on which an elaborate design and "Vulcan Series, No. 432" is embossed.
7. Mechanical equipment: The building was constructed with indoor plumbing and steam heat. The present steam heating system relies on oil rather than on coal as it did earlier. Electricity was available to the post as early as 1890, although the original lighting may have been by gas.

D. Site:

The house is located on Leonard Wood Avenue which encircles the parade ground. It faces west overlooking the parade ground with the ridge of the main roof running north-south. It is situated on a grassy lot with trees in the front and back of the house.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.